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in texts for beginners,—the stories are all very interesting, and hold the reader's attention.

Dr. Ingraham in his Preface says: "At the stage of work for which this collection of stories is intended, the aim of the teacher is usually to give the student a general vocabulary and to make him familiar with forms and elementary syntax. It is believed that these stories are excellently adapted to this end. They are largely narrative, and are written in a clear, simple style which is almost wholly free from involved and difficult constructions."

Indeed, it is hard to imagine a better reading book for a beginner. There is, besides, a full vocabulary, and the editor's work is done with great care. The notes, so far as we have tested them, are excellent, and the little book is singularly free of typographical errors.

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*Rhetoric in Practice*, by A. G. NEWCOMER and SAMUEL S. SEWARD. New York: Henry Holt and Company, pp. xii and 285.

This is a thoroughly useful text-book, practical in purpose, logical in arrangement, simple, clear, direct, and interesting in style. Its purpose is two-fold: First, to supply the student with a text and exercises "that will be helpful in the act of arranging and giving expression to his thought"; and second, to arrange the subject-matter so "that it may be constantly and readily referred to by the teacher. An indirect aim of the exercises, both creative and critical, is to bring the composition work of the student into direct contact with his everyday life. . . . It is safer, if we wish students to express themselves, and not merely reflect the opinion of others, to draw for the most part upon their personal observations and experiences for their material, and to let them write on literary experiences rather because they will than because they must." In arrangement it reverses the usual order of subject-matter, and logically treats first the composition as a whole,—including narration, description, exposition, and argument,—taking up afterwards the separate parts: the paragraph, the

sentence, and finally words and mechanical processes.<sup>1</sup> The exercises (pp. 203–285), designed to accompany and illustrate the rhetorical principles, and properly placed at the end of the book, contain subjects for oral and written work, based, not upon the student's reading or knowledge of literature, but upon his own experience and personal observations.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

### ANGLO-SAXON CHARMS.

*To the Editors of Mod. Lang. Notes.*

SIRS:—Since publishing my article on "Charms to Recover Stolen Cattle," *Modern Language Notes*, June, 1906, my attention has been called by Professor J. M. Hart, through Professor Bright, to the fact that Leo, *Rectitudines*, Halle, 1842, pp. 56–57, arranged in poetic form the legal ritual of Thorpe. The division into lines which I suggested (p. 183) agrees closely with Leo's version, with the exception of the following passage:

- 17 oððon ahvar on gemote . on ceap-stove.  
oððe on cyric-vare . þa hvile þe he lefed  
Unsac he vās on life . beo on legere  
Sva sva he mote . Do sva ic lære.

With such irregular rhythm, however, there might be many different arrangements of the lines, and it is difficult to determine with absolute certainty what was the original version.

It behooves me also to confess that in some way I overlooked altogether the printed versions of Leo and Schmid.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>This arrangement had already been carried out by Professor Newcomer, in his *Elements of Rhetoric*, 1898, and in that same year had been suggested by Mr. W. F. Webster in a paper read at the National Educational Association in Washington. In 1900, Mr. Webster issued a text-book, *English in the Secondary Schools*, Houghton, Mifflin & Co., based on this arrangement.

<sup>1</sup>*Die Gesetze der Angelsachsen*, 2nd edition, revised and enlarged, Leipzig, 1858, pp. 408–409, Appendix XI; 1st edition, Jena, 1832, pp. 216–217.

Leo (p. 56) refers to Schmid and Thorpe, and apparently bases his version on their printed texts, and not on the original mss. Schmid prints his text from ms. C.C.C. 383, and collates with Textus Roffensis. I have noted the following slight variants in Schmid and Leo, as compared with Cockayne :

3 Schmid and Leo, *mid feo and feore*

7 Schmid and Leo, *landes ne strandes*

18 Schmid, *þa hwile þe he lifede* ; Leo, *lefede*.

Leo calls the whole passage "eidesformel," but Schmid (p. lxxvii), in view of the detailed declaration of ownership and the conclusion, *beo þu be þinum and læt me be minum*, insists that it should more properly be called a legal declaration of ownership in answer to the claims of another. Schmid (*l. c.*) further notes that ms. C.C.C. 383, which Thorpe places in the tenth century, must belong to a later date, since it includes the laws of Canute (1017-1055).

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#### THE REPORTED NEW EDITION OF THE *Chanson de Willame.*

*To the Editors of Mod. Lang. Notes.*

SIRS :—The two hundred copies of the beautiful edition of the *Chanson de Willame*, Chiswick Press, London, 1903, are said to be all sold. Certain it is that if any copies are still to be found, they must cost considerably more than two pounds. In view of the rarity of this splendid poem, the announcement that a new edition exists has brought numerous inquiries to the book dealers.<sup>1</sup> A few facts concerning this reported new edition may be of interest to your readers.

An edition of the *Chanson de Willame* appeared in 1904, at Freiburg in Breisgau, with the title thus printed : L'ARCHANZ (La Chançon de Wil-

elme). There is no indication whatever of date, place of printing, printer, or editor. At the end of the volume, which numbers ninety-nine pages, is an alphabetical list of proper names, compiled by "Hugo Wehrle, stud. phil." Barring this appendix, the volume is an exact reprint of the original edition.<sup>2</sup> The book was prepared for the Romance Seminar of the University of Freiburg. It was not intended for the trade, and copies are not to be had under any circumstances whatever.<sup>3</sup>

RAYMOND WEEKS.

*University of Missouri.*

#### *Beowulf*, 62.

*To the Editors of Mod. Lang. Notes.*

SIRS :—As silence might be construed as acquiescence, I beg to say a few words about Professor Bryant's extended reply (*Mod. Lang. Notes*, XXI, 143-5) to my cursory criticism (*ib.*, XX, 11) of his paper on *Beowulf*, 62 (*ib.*, XIX, 121 f.).

I still believe what I said in my paper under discussion, viz. : "Whether that unlucky scribal blunder which has caused so much headache to modern scholars occurred before or after *elan cwen*, cannot be learned from [the erasure]. Nor do we know whether the (first) scribe of our *Beowulf* actually committed or merely transmitted it." Supposing,—to instance one of the many possible cases,—the original text of l. 62 was : *hyrde ic ꝥ oðryð<sup>1</sup> wæs onelan cwen*, and the ms. copied by the scribes of our present *Beowulf*, being already faulty, contained the following lines (of 27 (26) letters each)<sup>2</sup> : *gar ȝ halga til hyrde ic ꝥelan cwen || heaðo scilfingas heals ge bedda || þawæs hroð*

<sup>2</sup> There are, to be sure, a small number of misprints. No attempt has been made to correct evident errors in the original edition.

<sup>3</sup> If by chance a very few copies of the original edition remain unsold, they are doubtless in the hands of J. & J. Leighton, 40 Brewer St., Golden Square, W., London.

<sup>1</sup> Vid. for instance : J. Runeberg : *Études sur la Geste Rainouart*, Helsingfors, 1905, p. 8, note 1 ; and H. Suchier : *Vivien*, in the *Zeitschrift f. Romanische Phil.*, XXIX, p. 663, note 2. Mr. Runeberg speaks of the volume as coming from the press of C. A. Wagner, Freiburg. Wagner simply printed the book under a private contract, and has no copies to sell.

<sup>1</sup> Of course, this is not meant as an emendation. Any other suitable name beginning with a vowel might be selected.

<sup>2</sup> Many such lines occur in our unique copy of the *Beowulf*. By the way, a defect in the scribe's original ms. would help to explain the fact that he "became confused."